CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
RESOLUTION NO.
SERIES 2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE URBAN FORESTRY BOARD OF THE CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
TO DENY THE APPEAL, UPHOLD STAFF'S DECISION, AND DENY THE REMOVAL OF
ONE HERITAGE TREE AT 5 FOREST GLEN STREET

WHEREAS, an application was received for the removal of one (1) Heritage tree at 5 Forest Glen Street on January 24, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2025, the Forestry Division issued a decision on the application denying the removal of one (1) Heritage tree; and

WHEREAS, the decision denying the removal of the Heritage tree was timely appealed; and

WHEREAS, at its duly noticed public hearing on May 14, 2025, the Urban Forestry Board considered the appeal of the application for removal of the Heritage tree and independently reviewed and considered the application, staff report, public testimony, Heritage Tree Ordinance, and other information in the record; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: by the Urban Forestry Board of the City of Mountain View that the Heritage Tree Removal Permit appeal is hereby denied, and the Heritage tree shall be preserved, based on the required findings pursuant to Mountain View City Code Section 32.35 set forth below:

1.   The City Code requires the preservation of all healthy Heritage trees unless specific criteria are met pursuant to Mountain View City Code Section 32.25.

2.   The City Code places emphasis on the preservation of trees and when mitigation is possible, efforts should be made to preserve trees as opposed to removal.

3.   The Urban Forestry Board determines that the removal of the Heritage tree does not meet any of the criteria set forth in City Code Section 32.25, as follows:

a.   The condition of the tree with respect to age of the tree relative to the life span of that particular species, disease, infestation, general health, damage, public nuisance, danger of falling, proximity to existing or proposed structures, and interference with utility services. (Section 32.35(a)(1))

The Urban Forestry Board agrees with staff's evaluation of the Liquidambar that did not find that the condition of the tree required its removal, as its overall health and structure is fair, and there is no evidence of large limb failure or any other nuisance, damage, or interference issues that cannot be addressed through corrective root or canopy pruning.

b.   The necessity of the removal of the Heritage tree in order to construct improvements and/or allow reasonable and conforming use of the property when compared to other similarly situated properties. (Section 32.35(a)(2))

The Urban Forestry Board agrees with staff's evaluation of the liquidambar that did not find that removal of the Heritage tree was necessary in order to construct improvements because there are no improvements proposed.

c.   The nature and qualities of the tree as a Heritage tree, including its maturity, its aesthetic qualities such as its canopy, its shape and structure, its majestic stature, and its visual impact on the neighborhood. (Section 32.35(a)(3))

The Urban Forestry Board agrees with staff's evaluation of the liquidambar that found that the tree and structure of the canopy is fair and can be managed effectively; therefore, this criterion was not met.

d.   Good forestry practices such as, but not limited to, the number of healthy trees a given parcel of land will support and the planned removal of any tree nearing the end of its life cycle and the replacement of young trees to enhance the overall health of the urban forest. (Section 32.35(a)(4))

The Urban Forestry Board agrees with staff's evaluation of the liquidambar that did not find that the tree should be removed due to good forestry practices as no facts to support this criterion was provided or observed.

This decision of the Urban Forestry Board is final. The time within which judicial review of this decision must be filed is governed by Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6. Notice of this decision shall be posted at the site, City Hall, and at the Forestry Division Office.

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